

We have not carried out an extensive price and quality study of these batteries. Photocomm is a reliable company with high quality products. There are many other sources. Sealed batteries can be obtained in most communities. You may be able to find comparable quality batteries at a lower price especially if you buy them locally and save the freight.

I suggest you use a sealed battery in your shelter. Economize somewhere else.

RIFLE PROTECTORS

Some people have asked about the practicality of keeping their personal firearms in protectors similar to those supplied to American armed forces by the **Fighting Chance** rifle bag project.

We do not normally publish information specifically about firearms. There are many national experts and excellent organizations devoted to firearms. We do occasionally answer questions by individuals concerning the role of firearms in their personal civil defense preparations.

Each of you should have received a copy of Cresson Kearny's expedient instructions in our previous mailings. These can be modified as required to other shapes and sizes of firearms.

Generally it is a good practice to keep dust and dirt away from firearms. These polyethylene bags perform that function quite well. One special precaution is warranted.

Be sure the firearm is quite dry when you put it in the bag. Although 2 mil polyethylene is permeable to water, the rate of transfer is slow enough that significant rust formation could occur in the first day or two that a wet firearm is in the bag.

As far as long term rust is concerned, Cresson Kearny has performed some experiments which demonstrate that the water permeability of 2 mil polyethylene is high enough to preclude the accumulation of water from atmospheric fluctuations. In other words, if your rifle is dry when you put it in the bag (and the bag is dry), you need not worry about a long term rust hazard.

Military ammunition is often shipped in cases with inner polyethylene liners. Polyethylene bags for long term ammunition storage are fine, too.

This sort of protection might be especially wise if you decide to keep a firearm in your shelter for post-attack availability.

A few other remarks are warranted.

First, I have never seen a good civil defense shelter design which would be anything other than suicidal to defend with firearms from inside. Moreover, the mythical opponents of fantasies about such a defense are most likely to be your fellow Americans who are, in fact, your most important post-attack resource. Build the shelter big enough for them, too.